



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## News Release

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GOVERNOR

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### **Hawaii State Department of Health Finalizes Pandemic Flu Preparedness Plan**

HONOLULU – The Hawaii State Department of Health has finalized Hawaii's Pandemic Flu Preparedness & Response Plan. The plan is intended to assist partner agencies within the state and county, and the private sector with the coordination and integration of resources required to respond to an influenza pandemic. The plan is available for viewing on the Department of Health's website at: [www.hawaii.gov/health](http://www.hawaii.gov/health).

"We now have a plan, but implementation is and will be a critical step," said Health Director Chiyome Fukino, M.D. "Success will depend upon the Department of Health and partner agencies working together to educate people on how to prepare and protect themselves and others against flu and other infectious diseases in the event of a public health emergency in Hawaii."

Hawaii's Pandemic Flu Preparedness & Response Plan will also help facilitate statewide emergency preparations and is a major step in Hawaii's response to the possibility of an influenza pandemic. Last week, as part of President Bush's plan to mobilize the nation to prepare for an influenza pandemic, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt announced state and local preparedness funding in the amount of \$100 million, of which the State of Hawaii is to receive \$803,669.

The focus of the state plan is on practical, community-based procedures that could prevent or delay the spread of pandemic influenza and help to reduce the burden of illness communities would contend with during an outbreak.

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